AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a carboxylic acid comprising culturing *Candida sp.* in a fermentation medium containing a substrate of the formula $R(CH_2)_nCH_3$, wherein n is ≥1 and R is selected from the group consisting of epoxide, alkoxy, ether, ~~saturated primary alcohol,~~ cycloalkyl, aryl, diol and diol ester, whereby at least one terminal methyl group is oxidized to a carboxylic acid corresponding to the substrate.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the substrate is dissolved in a solvent prior to contact with the fermentation medium.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the solvent is an organic solvent.

4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol and hexane.

5. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 3 wherein the organic solvent is acetone.

6. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 1 wherein the *Candida sp.* is selected from the group consisting of *C. albicans, C. cloacae, C. guillermondii, C. intermedia, C. lipolytica, C. maltosa, C. parapsilosis,* and *C. zeylenoides.*

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the *Candida sp.* is *C. tropicalis.*

14. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 12 wherein the *Candida sp.* is selected from the group consisting of *C. albicans, C. cloacae, C. guillermondii, C. intermedia, C. lipolytica, C. maltosa, C. parapsilosis,* and *C. zeylenoides.*

15. (Original) The process of claim 12 wherein the *Candida sp.* is *C. tropicalis.*

16. (Withdrawn) A process for producing an alcohol comprising culturing *Candida sp.* in a fermentation medium containing a substrate of the formula $R(CH_2)_nCH_3$, wherein n is ≥ 1 and R is selected from the group consisting of epoxide, alkoxy, ether, saturated primary alcohol, cycloalkyl, aryl, diol and diol ester, whereby at least one terminal methyl group is oxidized to an alcohol corresponding to the substrate.

17. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16 wherein the substrate is dissolved in a solvent prior to contact with the fermentation medium.

18. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17 wherein the solvent is an organic solvent.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 18 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol and hexane.

20. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 18 wherein the organic solvent is acetone.

21. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16 wherein the Candida sp. is selected from the group consisting of C. albicans, C. cloacae, C. guillermondii, C. intermedia, C. lipolytica, C. maltosa, C. parapsilosis, and C. zeylenoides.

Claims 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Liu et al.(1993) *Biological Abstracts* 233484. The Liu et al. reference has been cited for its alleged teaching of the production of a carboxylic acid employing dodecene as the substrate. As presently amended, claim 12 no longer recites dodecene. Claim 15 depends from claim 12. In view of the amendment to claim 12, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 9, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over DE 4015851 or Liu et al. (1993) further in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,620,878 or 5,648,247. The Examiner's position is that it would have been obvious to employ the stains disclosed by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,004,784 or 6,228,275 for those of DE 4015851 or Liu et al. as well as adding a solvent in view of the teaching of U.S. 6,288,275. It is respectfully submitted that it is not clear from the office action whether U.S. Patent Nos. 5,620,878 and 5,648,247 are part of the rejection or if only U.S. Patent Nos. 6,004,784 and 6,288,275 are cited in the obviousness rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 depends from claim 3, which depends from claim 2, which depends from claim 1. Claim 9 also ultimately depends from claim 1. As presently amended, claim 1 no longer recites "saturated primary alcohol." Neither DE 4015851 nor Liu et al. teach or suggest a process for producing a carboxylic acid comprising culturing *Candida sp.* in a fermentation medium containing a substrate of the formula $R(CH_2)_nCH_3$, wherein n is ≥ 1 and R is selected from the group consisting of epoxide, alkoxy, ether, cycloalkyl, aryl, diol and diol ester, whereby at least one terminal methyl group is oxidized to a carboxylic acid corresponding to the substrate.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12. Neither DE 4015851 nor Liu et al. teach or suggest a process for producing a carboxylic acid comprising culturing *Candida sp.* in a